

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-14, and 16-21 were pending in the application. Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 15, 20, and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 22-24 have been added. Therefore, claims 3, 5-9, 12-14, 16-19, and 22-24 are pending and submitted for reconsideration.

Interview Summary

The courtesy extended by Examiner Ilan during the Telephone Interview held on October 25, 2006 is greatly appreciated. The attached Interview Summary provides a proper recordation of the substance of the interview.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication that claims 5 and 6 contain allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated. In order to advance prosecution of the application, claims 5 and 6 have been rewritten into independent format and, thus, are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 3, 7-9, and 12-14 depend from claim 5, and claims 16-19 and new claims 22-24 depend from claim 6 and are allowable therewith.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claims 11, 16, 17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 11 and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 16 and 17 now depend from allowable claim 6. Therefore, the rejection is now moot.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 12-14, 18-19, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,730,459 ("Kanda"). Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 11-13, and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 4-135944 ("Ikeda"). Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 15, 20, and 21 have been cancelled. The remaining claims have been amended to depend from allowable claims 5 or 6 and, therefore, the rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 20, 2006

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5582
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By Jessica M. Cahill Reg 56,986
Jessica M. CAHILL for
Howard N. Shipley
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 39,370